MINUTES REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

June 1, 2015

Mel L. Cohen, Mayor	Sally W. Sandy, City Manager Louis E. Vinay, Jr., City Attorney
John H. Cantrell)	
Forrest A. Fleming) Councilmen	
Sidney Simmons)	
Ronnie Thompson)	Becky Brinkley, Interpreter

- I. The meeting was called to order in the Council Chamber at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Cohen.
- II. Public Comment The Mayor stated the guidelines for public comment.
- No one appeared to speak before Council

There being no comments the Mayor recessed the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

- III. <u>Business of the Council</u> The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- IV. <u>Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag</u> Douglas Coley of Glen Alpine Boy Scout Troop 197 was in attendance. The Mayor invited him to lead the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- V. <u>Invocation</u> The invocation was given by the Rev. Max Bristol, New Hope in Christ Baptist Church.
- VI. <u>Introduction of Council</u> The Mayor introduced the Council and staff.
- VII. Retiree Resolution / Service Pin

The Mayor read a resolution recognizing retiring employee Mark Douglas Bradshaw. Mark retired from the City of Morganton on June 1, 2015 with 30 years', seven months service. Mark retired from the Public Safety Department as Major – Field Operations.

Upon motion by Mayor Cohen, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council approved Resolution #15-18 recognizing retiring employee Mark Douglas Bradshaw.

Major Bradshaw stated his thanks for the help and support throughout his years working for the City. He stated he has worked with many fine men and women through the years.

a. Consideration of Award of Service Weapon and Fire Services Helmet

Historically, the City has followed the North Carolina General Statutes and awarded a retiring member with their service weapon along with their fire services helmet. This has been done by the Council declaring the particular items as surplus and then allowing someone to purchase the weapon for the officer for a fee of one dollar.

Major Bradshaw has complied with the North Carolina General Statutes in regard to obtaining a valid gun permit for the weapon. City staff recommends that his weapon Glock model 23-4 semi-auto pistol, serial number WYD855, and fire services helmet, *Paul Conway American Classic* brand helmet, Serial number LH00073687 declared surplus, sold for one dollar, and presented to Major Bradshaw.

Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Council declared as surplus Glock model 23-4 semi-auto pistol, serial number WYD855, and fire services helmet, *Paul Conway American Classic* brand helmet, Serial number LH00073687, which was bought by the City Manager for one dollar and presented to retired Public Safety Major Mark Bradshaw.

The Personnel Committee and City staff have decided to recognize long-term employees for years of service at a Council meeting. The Mayor presented a service pin to Mike Crotts, Development & Design, Chief Building Inspector, for 20 years' service to the City.

VIII. <u>Public Advocacy Issues and Strategies</u>

a. The Mayor announced upcoming events including: TGIF Friday nights, Farmer's Markets, WNC Studio Art Glass Exhibition, State of Origin Craft Brew Festival, Third Thursday Art Crawl, Red, White & Bluegrass Festival and Old Time July 4 Fireworks Celebration.

The Mayor expressed sympathy to Vice-President Biden's family in the death of their son to brain cancer.

The Mayor announced that according to a <u>Niche</u> survey Morganton was named one of the leading towns in North Carolina in which to raise a family.

The Mayor stated that earlier in the day the City dedicated seven fitness stations along the greenway. Molded Fiber Glass donated the \$15,000 needed to purchase and install these stations for the benefit of their employees and the community.

b. April Riddle, Office of the Governor, Western Regional Director – Ms. Riddle stated she was in attendance to give an overview of the upcoming ConnectNC bond proposal which will possibly be on the November 2015 ballot. She stated there would be no tax increase to fund this bond and the state would be able to keep its AAA credit rating. She stated Morganton would see benefits including a new maintenance facility at the new Broughton Hospital; improvements at State Parks including Lake James, Mount Mitchell and Grandfather Mountain; paving projects on secondary roads. Other contributions of this bond would include a new health science building at Appalachian State University which would allow up to 200 nursing students per year rather than the current 24 currently allowed. At Western Carolina there would be construction of a new STEM building. She stated they were grateful for support of the City for this bond. She stated the timing was good for this bond because of the historically low interest rates.

Councilman Cantrell asked if other towns have been accepting of this proposal. She stated that it has been very well received.

c. 2014 North Carolina Area Wide Optimization Program Award - Brad Boris stated the primary focus of the Water Resources Department was to provide safe drinking water. He then introduced Randy Hintz, Asheville Regional Office NCDENR-Division of Water Resources Public Water Supply Section. Mr. Hintz talked about the importance of water on a global scale and then on a local scale. He stated that oftentimes the fact that we have safe drinkable water is taken for granted. He stated dedicated professionals are needed to provide safe drinking water every day 24/7. The Area Wide Optimization Program was established by the EPA to create enhanced levels of treatment at water treatment plants.

This is the 6th time that the City of Morganton has been able to achieve this standard since the program started in 2006. Hintz then presented the award to Jason Green, Morganton Water Treatment Plant Superintendent and Drew Foy, Lab Supervisor.

d. 2014 North Carolina Department of Labor Awards

Rus Scherer, Human Resources Director, announced the following awards given to the City at the recent NC Department of Labor ceremony held at the Community House. Scherer stated this was a testament to employees and staff.

Silver Awards: First Year, Street Department; Second Consecutive Year, Electric Department; Third Consecutive Year, Recreation Department

Gold Awards: First Year, Cemetery & Grounds, Community House & Mainstreet Office, Development & Design, Municipal Auditorium, Water Distribution & Collection; Second Consecutive Year, Administrative Departments; Fifth Consecutive Year, Waste Water Treatment Plant; Sixth Consecutive Year, CoMPAS Cable; Sixteenth Consecutive Year, Water Treatment Plant

- IX. <u>North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Update</u> The City Manager stated there was nothing to update at this time.
- X. <u>Consent Agenda</u> The City Manager presented the consent agenda and asked if any items should be removed from the consent agenda. Councilman Thompson requested that Item C: Consideration of a Budget Amendment Relating to the Community House Renovation Project be removed for further discussion.

Upon motion by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and unanimously carried, the consent agenda was approved and adopted with the exception of Item C, those being as follows:

- A. <u>Minutes</u> Approved minutes of a Regular Meeting held on May 4, 2015 as submitted.
- B. <u>Consideration of Award of Bid for Water Filter Plant Road Water Line Project</u> Authorized and contracted with Max Prestwood Construction of Lenoir, NC to install the water line extension and appurtenances along Water Filter Plant Road and C.E. Berry Road and to install the reconfiguration of the connection of the existing water line at Lost Corners.
- C. Removed for further discussion: <u>Consideration of a Budget Amendment Relating to the Community House Renovation Project</u>
- D. <u>Consideration of a Budget Amendment for Donated Exercise Equipment Molded Fiberglass</u> Approved a budget amendment (Ordinance <u>#15-15</u>) in the amount of \$15,000 to appropriate funds for exercise stations along the Greenway.
- E. <u>Consideration of Purchase of Aeration Equipment and Associated Electrical</u>
 <u>Components for the Wastewater Aeration Project</u> Authorized and contracted with Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. to purchase aeration equipment for the cost of \$82,900.

Authorized and contracted with City Electric Supply to purchase aeration equipment for the cost of \$56,280.

- F. <u>Consideration of Municipal Elections Scheduling; Filing Period; Filing Fees</u> Approved setting the filing fee for Mayor and for each City Council seat to be elected in 2015 at \$20.00.
- G. Consideration of Tax Releases Approved tax releases in the amount of \$31.80.
- H. <u>Items Removed from Consent Agenda</u> Councilman Thompson asked for clarification on the transfer of this money. The City Manager stated this was made up of two amounts: \$15,000 from the Pilot Club, which they agreed to pay toward architectural and project fees, and \$44,850 from private donations. The agreement was to reimburse the Capital Reserve Fund for contracts previously approved. \$33,750 of

this money is being reimbursed to the Capital Reserve Fund with this budget amendment.

<u>Consideration of a Budget Amendment Relating to the Community House Renovation</u>
<u>Project</u> – Approved a budget amendment (Ordinance #15-14) in the amount of \$59,850 to appropriate funds received from private donors for the Community House renovation project – Phase I.

Upon motion by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and carried unanimously, the Council approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$59,850 to appropriate funds for the Community House renovation project.

XI. <u>Presentation of Proposed Budget for FY 2015-2016</u> - Presented by Sally Sandy, City Manager. Following is the City Manager's Budget Message:

June 1, 2015 - Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council, Morganton, North Carolina

In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Fiscal Control Act, the recommended budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 is presented for your consideration. The budget document represents balanced revenues and expenditures. Achieving a balanced budget remains a challenge and requires cooperation from all City departments. The capital budgets include some equipment replacement and facility and park improvements that have been postponed in previous budgets. The budget summary by fund is included below.

Statistical Summary

	Revised Budget	Requested	Increase (D Dollars	Decrease) Percent
Fund Description	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	2 0	
General Fund:				
- Operations	17,654,384	17,398,929	(255,455)	(1.00%)
- C.I.P.	4,021,232	4,421,932	400,700	10.00%
- Powell Bill	468,500	403,510	(64,990)	(14.00%)
Total General Fund	22,144,116	22,224,371	80,255	0.40%
Water Fund	7,223,902	6,979,252	(244,650)	(3.00%)
Electric Fund	34,908,803	34,104,083	(804,720)	(2.00%)
Wastewater Fund	5,794,004	5,818,422	24,418	0.50%
CoMPAS CATV Fund	4,547,991	4,477,744	(70,247)	(2.00%)

Cemetery Trust Fund	70,000	61,750	(8,250)	(12.00%)
Subtotal:	74,688,816	73,665,622	(1,023,194)	(1.00%)
Less Interfund Transfers	(642,442)	(667,428)	(24,986)	4.00%
Total Budget:	74,046,374	72,998,194	(1,048,180)	(1.00%)

Not included in the summary above, but presented within this document, is the budget for the Intergovernmental Service Fund. This exists as an internal service fund and represents costs already accounted for within the General and Enterprise Funds. Inclusion of this fund in the statistical summary above would present these expenditures twice.

This budget contains funds for operations and the capital improvement program (CIP) in the General Fund. The General Fund capital program includes equipment purchases, routine and new funding for park improvements; both routine improvements and new park features. We continue to fund improvements to existing facilities. The City staff continues to pursue grant and public/private partnership opportunities to finance capital projects. Morganton Department of Public Safety aggressively seeks grants to enhance operations and assist in funding equipment. General Fund CIP totals \$4,421,932.

The utilities include capital programs that appropriate funding for equipment purchases, plant improvements, distribution system, and infrastructure improvements. The total CIP in all utility funds is \$5,312,146. As our infrastructure ages, staff continues to plan for systematic improvements. New technologies and more efficient methods of delivering utility services remain on our radar as we look toward the next 10-15 years in the utility business. CoMPAS continues to offer us opportunities to meet the needs of citizens and businesses in the area for phone and broadband access.

The 2015-2016 total budget is \$72,998,194 and is \$1,048,180 or 1.0% less than the revised budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Once again the continuation and inclusion of capital projects that continue for more than one fiscal year or that get moved to the next fiscal year skew that figure. All funds had carry-overs that totaled \$1.9 million. The \$11.4 million Waste Treatment Plant upgrade was the largest carry-over, but was finally completed in 2014-2015. Therefore, after adjusting for those, the total budget decreased by 4% between fiscal year 2015 and 2016. Most of that decrease is seen in the utility funds and more specifically in the capital budgets. The Electric Fund decrease is mostly in cost of power due to the wholesale rate decrease.

There continue to be 37.25 frozen positions not funded in this budget. These positions as well as salary ranges will need evaluating in the near future. Ability to attract and retain the right employees is key to us being able to offer the citizens what they deserve. The marketplace is changing, the baby boomers (yes – there are boomers in

the City workforce too!) are retiring. Our responsibility is to remain competitive, hire the best people, and provide quality services at affordable prices to ensure Morganton is a community with a bright future.

The City of Morganton continues to partner with other governmental partners in the areas of economic development, airport service, public library services, 911-Emergency Services, and narcotics enforcement. In the 2015-2016 budget proposal these entities are funded as follows:

Burke Development, Inc. (BDI)	\$ 254,652
Burke County Library	232,500
Burke County Emergency Communications	240,518
Burke County Narcotics Task Force	20,000
Foothills Regional Airport Authority	<u>50,149</u>
Total	\$ 797,819

These contributions represent 5 cents on the tax rate. The BDI contributions fund operations, local incentives to industry and debt service on the business park. The Foothills airport request includes funding for operations and \$36,917 for capital. The capital request is to accumulate local matching funds for federal grants for airport improvements in the future.

The drug task force continues to operate without an increase in funding request. In addition to the cash contribution, Morganton Public Safety assigns one officer to the task force.

The library request is up by \$12,585. The capital request is \$17,500 which will be matched by Burke County for building maintenance and repairs. Finally, the City continues to budget \$5,000 a year to maintain the library grounds which is in addition to the requested amount in this schedule.

The operational funding for the joint 911-emergency operations is in the second year of that arrangement. The County requested funding for two additional positions based on call volume experienced this past year. The request of \$240,518 is \$26,518 more than the current year.

The City of Morganton is working with local partners of BDI and Burke County to encourage the State of North Carolina to plan for the redevelopment of the Broughton Campus and adjoining state property. The scope of this project is very large as the opening of the new state-of-the-art hospital will create over 1,200,000 square feet of vacant space on that campus. The redevelopment of the State property has the potential to be a game changer for our community, this region and all of Western North Carolina. This project is under the direction of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The opportunity to develop this property and to create economic development at this magnitude adjacent to a new \$150 million State hospital will not come again anytime soon. The study is underway and being conducted by the UNC-

School of Government (SOG) Development Finance Initiative (DFI) staff. The study of potential redevelopment of the Broughton campus and other adjacent properties is funded at \$400,000 with \$200,000 contributed by the state. The opportunity for the development of a western campus of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics is still under consideration in the state budget. This could be an incredible catalyst for the ultimate redevelopment of the state properties.

General Fund

The General Fund is the fund of traditional government services –public safety, sanitation, street maintenance, inspections and zoning, and administrative services. By its very nature, the General Fund houses services that are not self-supporting. The General Fund includes quality of life and community building activities including CoMMA, recreation and the Community House. This fund is extremely dependent on ad valorem taxes, sales taxes, and other state collected revenues. This fund is greatly affected by decisions of the NC General Assembly. The tax reform movement and actions of the General Assembly have direct impact on the City and funding for general government activities. Local Privilege License taxes were eliminated in the 2014 session. The City lost \$215,000 of revenue from elimination of privilege licenses. This represents about 1.5 cents on the ad valorem tax rate. Decisions regarding sales tax restructure have not been finalized. Sales tax is budgeted at \$3.2 million. This represents an expected 2% growth over the current year. Sales tax is the second largest revenue in the General Fund budget.

The 2015-2016 proposed General Fund budget is \$22,224,371. This is \$80,255 more than the revised budget for 2014-2015. No service currently provided is proposed to be eliminated. The goal continues to be to provide quality service at the most affordable price possible. Additionally, the budget is designed to continue investing in quality of life activities, facilities and initiatives that will attract development and millennials to our City.

The ad valorem tax rate is recommended to remain at \$0.53/\$100 value. One cent on the tax rate generates approximately \$158,100. Total ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2015-2016 net of discounts and releases are budgeted at \$8,234,000 which represents 37% of the General Fund revenues. Tax revenue is flat which is largely due to depreciation on equipment at our largest taxpayers' facilities being greater this year than the new investment in equipment and upgrades. To lose a revenue of \$215,000 by action of the General Assembly and not be forced to raise taxes or cut services is a testament to the decisions made two years ago in revaluation. The decision to raise taxes 5 cents then has helped sustain us.

The downtown special tax is budgeted to remain at \$0.14/\$100 value and will generate approximately \$116,436. One cent on the downtown tax generates approximately \$8,400. The tax rate of 14 cents was set in 1995 and has not changed in 20 years and will fund 20% of the Main Street expenditures in 2015-2016.

Solid waste fees are proposed to remain at \$10.00 per month. Other state-collected local revenues that are included in this budget are \$1,758,280 in utility franchise taxes, \$79,208 in beer and wine taxes, and \$483,374 of Powell Bill funds. While these State-collected revenues seem solid currently, no one can predict what the General Assembly may do to change that in the future.

The General Fund includes \$17,802,439 of operations and \$4,421,932 of capital improvement for 2015-2016. Expenditures next year include \$552,000 for resurfacing streets and paving projects in parking lots at CoMMA, Public Safety and on the greenway. Building improvements, parking lot additions and additional tennis courts are planned for the Mountain View Recreation facility. Kitchen and interior upgrades totaling \$130,000 are planned for the center and are funded with capital reserve funds.

The final phase of wayfinding is budgeted at \$75,000 with \$35,000 coming from a grant. Downtown islands on South Sterling Street and Green Street are planned at a cost of \$95,500 with \$54,500 to be received from an ARC grant.

Public Safety requests include eight patrol cars and two CID vehicles. All of which are financed. Additionally the Public Safety budget includes replacement of SCBAs for firefighters, virtualization software for disaster recovery and software for internal affairs. These purchases total \$422,500 with \$397,250 or 94% funded by grants.

Public Works is planning to replace a variety of vehicles and equipment. Two Kubotas for sanitation, a truck for the grounds crew, a new leaf vacuum and dump truck for streets are the highlights. All equipment and vehicles for public works are funded with current resources except the truck/leaf vacuum for \$155,000 which is financed.

In total, the General Fund includes grant revenues of \$788,697, private/restricted funds of \$347,500 and financing proceeds of \$1,640,550.

Finally, the budget proposal includes an appropriation of fund balance of \$151,453 which represents less than one penny on the tax rate. This is the third year in a row the budget has included fund balance. However, in the previous two years, we have not ended up needing to use it. Appropriating this amount in 2015-2016 will not cause us to violate your policy of keeping at least a 15% fund balance in reserve. As always, my caution is that fund balance should not be considered recurring revenue to be used year after year. It is worth noting that if the General Assembly had not taken away privilege licenses, there would be no need to appropriate any fund balance.

Water Fund

The proposed 2015-2016 budget is \$6,979,252 which is \$244,650 or 3% less than the revised 2014-2015 budget and includes no appropriation of retained earnings to balance the budget. The decrease is reflected in a reduced capital budget. For several consecutive years capital projects and improvements at the water treatment plant have been funded. Additionally, we have been investing in the distribution system. These

projects are large in scope and accordingly have taken more than one budget year to complete.

The 2015-2016 recommended budget proposes to keep current water rates the same for next year. A household inside the City using 5,000 gallons of water a month will continue to pay \$14.40. Outside customers pay double the inside rates. These rates are extremely low. Morganton continues to have water rates lower than our neighbors and lower than similar utilities across the state.

The 2015-2016 capital improvements program (CIP) budget totals \$2.4 million and includes \$1,273,000 for clearwell storage tank replacements at the plant that will be funded with a 0% interest state loan. Other capital projects funded include replacing water pumps for \$160,000, improving the Glen Alpine pump station's electrical equipment for \$100,000 and a \$50,000 hydraulic study for the Bost Road/Lost Corners area. In 2015-2016, water tank maintenance and water main line replacements continue at \$500,000.

Water usage remains flat. Customers in all classes are conserving more and reducing overall usage. Several large users are investing in upgrades at their facilities that will allow reduced usage. Currently on average, system-wide water usage is still around 45 to 46% of capacity.

Electric Fund

The total proposed electric budget for 2015-2016 is \$34,104,083 which is \$804,720 less than the 2014-2015 revised budget. Effective July 1, 2015, the Power Agency is passing on a wholesale rate decrease to its members. The wholesale rates are based on an assumption of load growth system wide and adjusted for weather and other variable factors. The Agency is in the process of restructuring debt in order to take advantage of the market and pass on the wholesale rate decrease. The Agency calculates an average decrease in wholesale costs of 6%. For Morganton, after looking at our system specific variables, we should receive a decrease of approximately 5.7%.

The wholesale rate decrease comes after many years of annual rate increases. Our customers have seen electric rates increase for the past decade. The long-range projections show the next several years' wholesale rates to be flat with 2% increases becoming necessary in four or five years.

Staff believes our customers deserve a break and that several years of flat electric rates would be a welcome opportunity. As such, the 2015-2016 budget proposes an average decrease in rates to customers of 2.0%. The decrease would be effective with the August 1, 2015 billing which is for usage during July 2015. The recommended budget includes a contribution to rate stabilization of \$350,000. The plan is to set aside rate stabilization for the next several fiscal years so the City can keep rates stable once wholesale increases begin again.

The CIP recommendations in the 2015-2016 budget total \$706,725. This includes almost \$400,000 in substation improvements. Over \$250,000 of the improvements will go to upgrade aging stations serving our industrial and other large customers such as Grace Hospital. The City remains committed to supplying our customers with reliable and affordable electricity. Using part of the rate decrease to reinvest in our distribution system is a good business decision.

The 2.0% average rate decrease is small, but it will help to bring our rates closer to our competitors. The average household should see a decrease of \$2.50 per month. Commercial and industrial customers can expect decreases ranging from \$13 to \$280 per month. Each customer's reduction will be dependent on factors relating to the specific business and individual energy usage patterns.

The City remains committed to helping customers conserve energy and reduce bills through energy audits, credits for lighting upgrades and rebates for energy efficient appliances. We welcome opportunities to work with customers investing in solar energy.

Wastewater Fund

The total proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 is \$5,818,422 which is slightly more than 1% higher than last year. Treated wastewater averages about 50% of daily capacity. Just like the Water Fund, conservation affects wastewater revenues which remain relatively flat.

The 2015-2016 recommended budget includes no increase in rates for wastewater treatment. There is no appropriation of retained earnings included. The budget is balanced. Inside customers will continue to pay \$28.38 a month for 5,000 gallons treated. Although not as low as water rates, our wastewater rates are competitive regionally and statewide.

After several years of significant capital investment at the plant, debt service for next year is \$782,000. The plant is over 40 years old and like our cars, houses, knees and hips, it is time for replacements. The next several years will require significant capital investment to keep the plant compliant with regulation and to run it effectively and efficiently. The conversion from a pure oxygen facility to a traditional treatment facility is planned.

In the very near future, wastewater rates need to be studied and increases will be necessary to pay for the necessary capital investments. Staff continues to apply for zero-interest and low-interest borrowings to fund improvements.

The last couple of years, the Council has funded two programs that are once again included in the proposed budget, the manhole rehabilitation and the sewer line rehabilitation programs. These maintenance programs are paying dividends. Staff estimates that infiltration and inflow (I&I) has been reduced due to these programs. During the first 9 months of fiscal year 2014-2015, staff estimates the savings due to

reduced I&I to be about \$266,000. This reduces strain on the system and reduces the treatment of wastewater that is not billed to a customer. Next year's recommended budget includes \$450,000 for continuing these programs.

The total CIP for next year in the Wastewater Fund is \$1,886,207. The two largest ticket items are \$450,000 for replacing the second primary clarifier and \$650,000 for the engineering and design on the project to convert from a pure oxygen plant to a traditional treatment facility. The engineering and design costs will be reimbursed and spread over the life of the project once financing is in place. It is our intent to try to get approved for zero-interest money from DENR for this project.

Cable Fund

The 2015-2016 proposed budget for CoMPAS is \$4,477,744 which is \$70,247 or 2% less than the current year. The decrease is reflected in the CIP. The business model for CoMPAS is changing. The reality is that cable television is struggling. This is not just in Morganton. Internet and phone services are in high demand. The faster the speed, the better. As we discussed last year, you no longer need cable or a television set to watch TV. Our internet customer base continues to grow. We are adding residential customers and business customers daily. Phone service continues to be in demand also. Last year, we completely revamped our fees and offerings for internet service. There is no recommended increase in any rates for telephone or internet service in next year's budget.

The television segment of CoMPAS continues to be very expensive. Programming costs keep rising and there is very little we can do to influence the rates demanded by program providers. The program providers have also started requiring multiple channels be carried in order to get the best program rates. Sports programming continues to be the most expensive. The rate for basic cable is budgeted to increase \$3.00 per month to become effective with the billing for January 2016. No other cable rates are recommended to increase.

The proposed CIP for 2015-2016 is \$227,014. Projects include upgrades to our troubleshooting system, additional satellite receivers to improve signal reception and an update to the HD weather channel. We also budgeted \$35,000 for funding necessary equipment to continue to connect new internet customers. The money is available to complete the relocation of equipment from the water tank on Vine Arden to High Peak. We continue to wait on Due Energy to change out poles and allow CoMPAS to attach. The water fund continues to carry funds to remove the unsightly tank once the relocation occurs.

Cemetery Trust Fund

The Cemetery Trust Fund is a fund designed to accumulate funds for maintaining the City owned cemetery and providing perpetual care for that property. The budget for

2015-2016 is \$61,000. Lot sales and marker sales remain around \$10,000-\$12,000 per year.

The budget proposal includes \$50,000 from the fund to help to purchase a new truck for the crew. This does not use the original principle contribution established in 1985, when the fund was first created.

The columbarium is under construction and should be available during the 2015-2016 year. The proposed fee schedule is \$750 per niche for City residents and \$1,000 per niche for non-city residents. Each niche will accommodate two burials.

Intergovernmental Service Fund

The Intergovernmental Service Fund includes the Warehouse and Garage and the Information Resources Management Services (IRMS) Department. The total budget for these services for 2015-2016 is \$2,106,449 which is 6% less than last year. These departments provide services to the other funds.

The IRMS budget is \$1,004,449 which is \$54,548 less than the 2014-2015 revised budget. Much like the utilities budgets, IRMS has projects that span multi-budget years. Contracted services which include support costs for hardware and software are \$257,899 or 26% of the IRMS budget. Investments in technology remain important. Technology allows us to work smarter and to offer better customer service. Equipment purchases include replacement of PCs and servers. The second phase of the upgrade to the studio is planned for next year at a cost of \$40,000

The warehouse budget continues to see increases in inventory purchases as we continue to complete projects around the City. The 2015-2016 budget includes \$372,000 for inventory purchases.

The equipment services budget for 2015-2016 is \$730,000 which is a decrease of \$50,000. The decrease is reflected in the reduction of the fuel purchases line item which at \$475,000 still represents 65% of total budget. The reduction is based on the last several years' actual experience. However, with the recent sharp rise in gas prices, we may have to revisit this during the year.

Personnel Issues

The proposed budget includes funding for 282.25 positions. Currently, 37.25 allocated positions are not filled and not included in this budget. The total allocated positions for full staffing is 319.5. There are no new positions included in the proposed budget.

The City employees remain committed to providing quality service to the citizens of Morganton. We continue to provide this service with fewer employees than in the past. Part-time employees help fill the gaps, but state regulations make it difficult to use part-time help in large blocks of hours.

The budget proposed for fiscal year 2015-2016 includes a 1.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for all employees that would be effective with the July 11, 2015 payroll. The total cost of the COLA city-wide is \$165,287

In addition to the COLA, this budget also includes a 1.0% merit award that would be effective for eligible employees on the payroll of March 5, 2016. Merit pay allows supervisors to reward employees who consistently perform beyond expectations. Merit is only awarded after a performance appraisal is completed and communicated to all employees. City employees have not received merit awards in seven years. Department directors and supervisors will be able to use merit dollars to address pay compression and to motivate and retain exemplary employees. The total amount budgeted for merit in this budget is \$36,813.

A well-trained, motivated workforce is essential to a successful service business. As an employer, the City of Morganton needs to be able to attract and retain qualified employees. Reinstituting a merit program is a good first step in the direction of being an employer of choice in a world where people are very mobile and public service is not always the first choice of workers.

Employees and qualifying retirees will continue to contribute \$10.00 per month toward the cost of health insurance. Employees and retirees who cover dependents will pay an increase of 7% in premiums next year. The increase is reflective of federal taxes due under the Affordable Care Act and based on our experience.

The total cost for insurance benefits next year is \$2,638,771 for active employees and \$592,852 for retirees. Law enforcement separation allowance has increased \$28,522 and is funded at \$150,574.

Summary

On its surface and at first glance, the 2015-2016 proposed budget may seem rather humdrum and just more of the same. The budget proposed includes no recommended increase in the tax rate, no increase in the garbage fee, no increase in water rates, no increase in sewer rates, no increases in internet fees or phone service fees. Electric rates are recommended to decrease slightly while cable rates increase modestly midyear. The total budget is \$72,998,194 and no services are recommended to be eliminated or decreased. The budget requests have been carefully evaluated. Resources have been matched with needs and both short and long range plans have been considered.

The question you might be asking is how and why did we get to a budget like the one before you. I believe we got here deliberately, methodically and united as a team.

In the movie <u>We Are Marshall</u>, Coach Jack Lengyel must motivate a young, inexperienced group of young men who are faced with impossible odds to take the field

and compete after a tragic plane crash took the lives of the entire team and coaching staff on November 14, 1970. The movie is about pain, perseverance, pride and the will to overcome. The themes of this movie are not dissimilar to our community. Since the 1990s, Morganton has been transitioning from decades as a furniture and textile community. We have been forced to retool, to re-educate, to reinvent, and to redefine who we are and how we market our city. The 2008 recession and the years that followed hit this area hard. We are still recovering.

In this transition it has been important to remember and honor our past. Even today, we continue to attract and recruit new furniture and textile industry to our area.

At the grave site of six players who died in the crash, Coach Lengyel says, "This is our past, gentlemen. This is where we have been. This is how we got here. This is who we are. Today, I want to talk about our opponent this afternoon. They're bigger, faster, stronger, more experienced and on paper, they're just better. And they know it, too. But I wanna tell you something that they don't know. They don't know your heart. I do. I've seen it. You have shown it to me. You have shown this coaching staff, your teammates. You have shown yourselves just exactly who you are in here."

For me, this description embodies our employees. They have laid it on the line, they have worked with less and delivered more. They continue to do this because they care and because this is not just about a job, it is about our home and our pride. The Department Heads set that tone. They believe in this City and they take pride in how the citizens are served. They work toward the goal of a Morganton with a bright future. Finally, the elected officials, both present and former, have cared about this community. For the benefit of the citizens, visitors, and the businesses of this community, Morganton Mayors and City Council members have found ways to weather economic storms, attract new employment, support tourism growth and make continual investments in quality of life amenities that make Morganton special. These decisions and efforts have been carried out and supported by many partners, not the least of which are employees of the past and present.

And finally, our community remains resilient. Others around us may be larger and they may spend more money, but none show more tenacity or perseverance. Morgantonians do not give up.

Please, once again, thank Karen Duncan, Finance Director, and her staff for all the hard work and effort it takes to put a budget like this together. To be able to present to you an accurate, well thought out, financially responsible budget is something I do not take for granted. I could not do that year after year without the assistance of all the Department Directors and Karen's leadership and ownership in the process.

As always, this budget is a beginning. There is much work to be done. The good news is that the work and challenges never end. New retail is opening, new manufacturing is opening, and existing industry is reinvesting and answering the needs of today's markets. Our efforts to keep downtown vital, attract more visitors, provide quality recreational opportunities to all ages are working. Our City is safe and beautiful every

day, we keep the lights on, keep clean water flowing, keep the roads clear and safe, keep the information highway pipeline on, all while looking toward the future to grab all opportunities to make Morganton prosperous and successful.

As we continue to serve in the place we proudly call home, my advice to all of us comes from Coach Jack Lengyel's words to his team on opening day, "When you take that field today, you've gotta lay that heart on the line, men. From the souls of your feet, with every ounce of blood you've got in your body, lay it on the line until the final whistle blows. And if you do that, if you do that, we cannot lose."

Respectfully submitted,

Sally W. Sandy, CPA

City Manager

The City Manager highlighted various items in the budget and offered to answer any questions from the Council. The Mayor thanked Karen for her hard work in putting together this proposed budget.

a. Consideration of Calling for Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget on Monday, June 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall

Upon motion by Mayor Cohen, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council called for and approved a meeting to be held on Monday, June 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to vote on the proposed budget.

Councilman Cantrell thanked staff for bringing to them a forward-thinking budget. He stated they needed to keep that forward-thinking.

XII. New Business

A. Public Hearing and Action

1. <u>Public Hearing for Amending the Zoning Ordinance in Regard to Accessory Structures</u>

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

The City Manager stated the purpose of this amendment is to clarify the number and size of permitted residential accessory structures on residential lots located within HID zoning districts. Under the current ordinance Residential accessory structures such as detached garages, storage buildings, and carports are limited to a maximum of two (2) structures per lot with a total square footage less than one-half that of the primary residence. Currently this regulation applies within all LID, MID, HID and CBD districts.

Upon further review and consideration, the City staff and Planning Commission recommend a change be made to this ordinance to remove these restrictions from HID districts. It has been determined that HID districts permit a wide variety of uses already at very high density and the number and size of residential accessory structures would not adversely impact the uses already allowed by right within the HID district.

This Public Hearing was advertised in the Morganton News Herald on May 21 & 28, 2015

There being no further public comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Action: Motion to Amend the Zoning Ordinance in Regard to Accessory Structures

Upon motion by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council confirmed that the requested amendment is in compliance with the Morganton Mission 2030 goals and objectives.

Upon motion by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted a Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Ordinance #15-16) that removes the residential accessory structure size and quantity restrictions within HID districts.

B. Other Business

1. <u>Consideration of a Resolution Calling for Referendum on Amending Morganton</u> Regulations for On-Premises Sale of Beer and Wine

The City Attorney stated that under North Carolina law, each municipality may by referendum adopt one or more of several authorizations controlling the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Morganton's current regulatory scheme, adopted in a series of referenda over a period of about 30 years, provides for an ABC store; sale of mixed drinks in those places duly licensed by the State ABC Board; widespread sale of beer and wine for "off-premises" consumption; and sale of beer and wine for "on-premises" consumption, but only in "Grade A hotels and restaurants".

The City Attorney continued stating this last provision, adopted by a 1979 referendum, is referred to by the State ABC as the "HMR" option. It means that the only businesses open to the public (other than private clubs) in Morganton which may sell beer to be consumed on-site are: 1) "restaurants", which by State ABC definition have at least 36 indoor seats, 2) restaurants or bars inside hotels or motels, 3) places holding mixed beverage permits, and 4) micro-breweries [as to those beers brewed by them]. Those businesses not permitted to sell on-premises beer include bars not serving enough food to qualify as restaurants or "eating establishments", and so-called "bottle shops" which offer samplings of many different beers, but do not brew their own.

At least twice in the past year, new businesses planning to open in Morganton have run into this "HMR" limitation, causing significant disruption to their plans. Since Morganton adopted its current rules over 30 years ago, several nearby communities have by referendum adopted or amended their own regulations, which often allow beer and wine sales without any HMR limitation. There is no HMR restriction on beer/wine sales in Valdese, Rutherford College, Hildebran or Glen Alpine. Thus, it is possible for some businesses to open in those towns, but not in Morganton.

The Burke County Chamber of Commerce has publicly requested that City Council call for a referendum to eliminate the HMR restriction, because it impedes economic development in Morganton, and because the other towns in Burke County already have the less restrictive regulation. City staff considers modernization of Morganton's regulations to be wise and useful, especially in light of the rules in our neighboring towns. The City Attorney also recognized members in the audience from the Burke County TDA who also have gone on record to support this amendment.

The City Attorney stated that by law, the only way to change a local alcoholic beverage regulation is by a new referendum duly adopted by the voters. Such a referendum may be initiated by a written request from the City Council to the County Board of Elections. In odd-numbered years, such referenda may only be conducted at a regularly scheduled general election. In Burke County and the City, that means that the next possible date for such an election will be the first Tuesday in November, 2015. Because it would be held simultaneously with a regular City election, such a referendum at that time would not cause a substantial cost to the City other than the cost for advertising notice of the referendum.

Councilman Cantrell asked if there was an opinion about this from the ABC Board. Attorney Vinay stated he did not know if the ABC Board had an opinion but this change would have no effect on the ABC store or mixed beverage sales.

Upon motion by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Resolution #15-19 requesting the Burke County Board of Elections to hold a referendum at the scheduled November 3, 2015 City election, in which Morganton's voters would decide whether to amend the City's regulations for the on-premises sale of beer and wine.

2. <u>Consideration of the Project Budget Ordinance for 2015 CDBG and Award of</u> Administration Contract with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments

The City Manager stated that a requirement of the CDBG Entitlement Program is that the City of Morganton adopted a Project Budget Ordinance each year to reflect the current budget revenues and expenditures.

The City of Morganton also contracts with the WPCOG to administrate the 2015 CDBG Entitlement Program at a cost of \$30,000.

Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and carried unanimously, the Council approved/adopted the Project Budget Ordinance for the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program.

Councilman Thompson asked if the expenditure line item on the clearance of spot slum could be used to help with dilapidated structures. The City Manager stated it could be used and they in fact used it on Fletcher Street.

Councilman Cantrell asked about the public infrastructure line item and how those monies were used. Lisa Helton stated they try to leave the line generic; it has been used for many things including streets, sidewalks, and upgrades to water/sewer.

Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council approved a contract with WPCOG for Grant Management Assistance in relation to the 2015 CDBG Entitlement Program grant.

3. <u>Consideration of an Ordinance to Effectuate Part 9, Chapter 2 Article E, Section 9-</u> 2064(a) of the City Code at 417 East Bethel Road

The City Manager stated the property at 417 Bethel Road is owned by Sandra C. Blakeney mailing address P.O. Box 1208, Morganton, NC 28680. The structure is a 1915 frame house containing 770 square foot of living space with a 2015 Tax Valuation of \$41,360. The residential structure has been vacant since 2014 when it suffered extensive fire damage on April 3rd of that year. The house has been left unsecure since that time.

The Development & Design Services Department first began receiving complaints about the condition of the structure from neighborhood residents in June 2014. Upon Inspection by Terry Jordan, Zoning Administrator, it was determined the property had become a nuisance for tall grass and general debris. The City Public Works Department mowed the property in August and again in October of 2014. Tax Liens were assessed and paid by the owner. On March 17, 2015 Mike Crotts, Chief Building Inspector, inspected the structure for minimum housing code violations. He determined at that the building was in a dilapidated condition due to continued neglect and dilapidation resulting from the fire including structural defects that increases the potential for accidents or other calamities. The building has been determined to have conditions which render the building unsafe, unsanitary or detrimental to health, safety or morals otherwise harmful to the welfare of the residents of the city. A hearing date was set for April 6, 2015 to allow the property owner to review the building inspector's findings in order to make a plan for remedying the situation. Ms. Blakeney was notified of this hearing by certified mail on 3/20/15. Ms. Blakney attended the hearing and acknowledged the building was in need of demolition and requested more time to do so. A demolition permit was issued on May 1, 2015; however no work has begun. An order was issued by the Building Inspector on May 18, 2015 to remove the structure by May 31, 2015.

Mike Crotts now request the City Council adopt an ordinance and order directing the Building Inspector to effectuate the purposes of Article E. Part 9 of the Charter and Code of Ordinances for the City of Morganton regarding property at 417 East Bethel Road pending any failure of the owners or responsible parties to remove the building by June 15, 2015.

The City Council has appropriated \$30,000 in its nuisance abatement budget for 2014-15. It is estimated that this item will use approximately \$5,000 of this amount. Any demolition by the City will require the owner to pay 2X the cost of demolition and removal. Failure to pay the fee will result in a tax lien against the property.

Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Ordinance #15-18 and an order directing the Building Inspector to effectuate the purposes of Article E. Part 9 of the Charter and Code of Ordinances for the City of Morganton regarding property at 417 East Bethel Road.

4. <u>Consideration of a Non-contiguous Annexation Petition Submitted by Rishabh, LLC</u> for 0.521 Acres located at 1014 Salem Road

The City Manager stated the management of Rishabh, LLC have submitted a petition to voluntarily satellite annex their property located at 1014 Salem Road into the corporate limits of Morganton. The property consists of 0.521 acres and is located between an existing satellite annexation area (former Morganton Dyeing and Finishing) and the existing corporate limits approximately 0.7 miles to the north. This property is developed as a small convenience store. The current tax value of the property is \$398,653. It was recently acquired by Rishabh, LLC. The property currently has access to City water and sewer service. It is also within a reasonable distance and within the current service route of other City services. The City staff has reviewed this request and does not anticipate existing City operations to experience adverse operational impacts if approved.

If the Council wishes to pursue this annexation further, state law requires three immediate steps be taken:

- 1) The City Council must adopt a Resolution directing the Clerk to Certify the Annexation Petition.
- 2) The Clerk must Certify as to the Sufficiency of the Petition.
- 3) Upon certification by the Clerk, the City Council will need to adopt a Resolution Fixing a Public Hearing date upon which the public is invited to express their opinion on the matter of Annexation.

Councilman Cantrell asked which property they were speaking of. Lee Anderson shared a map which showed where the property was located.

Upon motion by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Resolution #15-21 directing the Clerk to Certify the Sufficiency of the Annexation Petition received from Rishabh, LLC

The Clerk certified as to the Sufficiency of the Petition.

Upon motion by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Mayor Cohen, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Resolution #15-20 fixing June 22, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chamber as a public hearing date to consider this Annexation Petition.

5. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the City of Morganton to Submit an Application to the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization in the Amount of \$1,200,000 for Surface Transportation Program - Direct Appointment Funds for the Morganton Downtown/Greenway Connector Project

The City Manager stated On March 25, 2015 the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for Surface Transportation Program- Direct Appointment Funding (STP-DA). A total of \$2.7 million is available to award among four transportation modal buckets: bicycle and pedestrian, intersections, roadway, and transit. STP-DA is comprised of a collection of discretionary programs including multi-use bike-ped greenway installations. The funding requires a minimum 20% local cash match.

The City completed its first phase the downtown greenway connector project along North Green Street over 5 years ago in anticipation of other funding sources being available to complete the project. Until now, no funding has been identified to help complete the remaining \$1.4 million project. The STP-DA funds appear to be ideal for this purpose. This section of the Downtown Greenway project would link the Catawba River Greenway and Catawba Meadows to the existing section of North Green Street Greenway which now stops at College Street. This section of trail will connect the indoor pool, the Mountain View Rec, the Housing Authority, and various business properties along North Green Street to the City's growing bike/pedestrian network. This construction project would involve one creek crossing and a tunnel installation under Sanford Drive. The total length of this project is approximately 3000 linear feet (0.57 miles).

Councilman Cantrell asked about the timing of the award of the grant. Anderson stated they hope to hear about funding this year, but they will have 5-years to complete the project. The goal is to begin by summer next year if successful in receiving the funding.

Councilman Cantrell asked who would make the decision on the award of the \$1.2 million. Anderson stated it was sent to a group through WPCOG and the State Department of Transportation.

Councilman Thompson asked how many other communities in our region have applied and are in competition with Morganton. Anderson stated possibly three other communities who may be applying. There is \$2.7 million available and we have asked for half of the available amount. This is the first year they have offered funding and Morganton has always been good to get in the game early. Staff has found if we ask early in the grant process the more successful we are.

Councilman Thompson asked about the design. Anderson stated the design is on the shelf waiting for funding.

Councilman Fleming asked about the difference of \$87,814 between what we asked for and what the budget shows. Anderson stated this was a projected amount and we would need to hire an administration group. Also, the projections include no contingency.

Councilman Simmons asked if they were voting just on the application for the grant. The City Manager stated yes, voting to authorize to apply. If awarded, the match would be included in a future budget, probably 2016-2017.

Upon motion by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Cantrell, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Resolution #15-23 authorizing the application for \$1,200,000 in (STP-DA) Funds through the Western Piedmont Council of Government and certifying the availability of 20% matching funds for completion of the Downtown/Greenway Connector Project.

6. Consideration of Appointments for Boards and Commissions

a. Board of Adjustment

There are two vacancies on this board. One expired and one vacancy.

David Rader's term has expired and he has requested to not be reappointed as a member of the Board of Adjustment after serving since May 2006.

Sandy Turner, Hugh Lowe, and Mark McMahon have all expressed interest in serving on the Board of Adjustment

A request has been sent to the County for two appointees, a regular member and an alternate (state law says if we have an ETJ, then we must have at least one member from the ETJ). As of now no names have been suggested.

Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and carried unanimously, the Council appointed Sandy Turner and Hugh Lowe to the Board of Adjustment for terms to expire on June 3, 2018.

b. Cable Television Commission

There are four vacancies due to term expirations of Richard Garrison, Kailey Lane (Freedom), Marc Sholar, and Jim Coleman (WPCC appointee); along with one AARP representative vacancy.

The WPCC Board of Trustees have recommended Jim Coleman continue as their representative on the Commission. Marc Sholar and Richard Garrison have expressed a willingness to continue serving.

Bill Harkins has sent letters to the high school and AARP seeking candidates. It is likely it will be fall before we hear about a high school appointee.

Upon motion by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and carried unanimously, the Council reappointed Marc Sholar, Richard Garrison, and Jim Coleman as members of the Cable Television Commission for terms to expire on June 1, 2018.

c. Community Appearance Advisory Commission

This is a Mayoral appointment. There are three terms expiring and one vacancy.

Judy Lane Davis, Laura Ervin Smith, and Barbara Norvell have been consistent members of the Community Appearance Advisory Commission and are willing to continue serving on this Commission. It is recommended by staff that they be reappointed with terms to expire on June 1, 2018.

Nan McMahon has expressed an interest in serving on this Commission. It is recommended that she be appointed to fulfill a term that will expire on June 1, 2017.

The Mayor reappointed Judy Lane Davis, Laura Ervin Smith and Barbara Norvell to the Community Appearance Advisory Commission with terms to expire on June 1, 2018. He also appointed Nan McMahon to fulfill a term to expire on June 1, 2017.

d. Mainstreet Advisory Commission

This is a Mayoral appointment.

Chris Jernigan, Tamra Starnes, Julia Mode, Jerry Haynie, Clark Erwin have been consistent members of the Mainstreet Advisory Commission and are willing to continue serving on this Commission. It is recommended by the Advisory Board that they be reappointed with terms to expire on June 30, 2018.

The Mayor reappointed Chris Jernigan, Tamra Starnes, Julia Mode, Jerry Haynie, and Clark Erwin to the Mainstreet Advisory Commission with terms to expire on June 30, 2018.

e. Planning and Zoning

The following three individuals have terms expiring: Claude Huffman, Waits Gordon, and Bill Lennon. Each of these have been consistent members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and are willing to continue serving.

Bill Steiner has also expressed an interest in serving on the Planning and Zoning Board.

Upon motion by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and carried unanimously, the Council reappointed Claude Huffman, Waits Gordon, and Bill Lennon to the Planning and Zoning Commission for terms to expire on June 3, 2018.

f. Recreation Advisory Commission

There are three vacancies due to term expirations of Bill Hutchins, Pat Grady, and Cindy Kuehnert.

Staff has presented the following names for consideration Ruth Roseboro, Rick Roper, and George Logan.

Upon motion by Councilman Cantrell, seconded by Councilman Thompson, and carried unanimously, the Council appointed Ruth Roseboro, Rick Roper and George Logan to the Recreation Advisory Commission for terms to expire on June 30, 2018.

XIII. Other Items from City Manager and City Council Not on Agenda – There were no other items.

XIV. <u>Reports</u> – Reports were distributed for information.

XV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

<u>Preparation of Minutes</u>. These minutes were prepared by Mikela D. Russell, Assistant City Clerk. Copies of all resolutions, ordinances and orders referenced in these minutes are intended to be incorporated into these minutes as if fully set forth herein. Prior to including them into the official minute book, the minutes have been read and approved by the City Manager and the City Attorney, then distributed to each member of the City Council for further review and final approval, at a subsequent Council Meeting.

Mayor Assistant City Clerk